

Red Flag Warnings today in the Willamette Valley for wind, low humidity

Warming conditions preceded the elevated fire weather concerns in the Willamette Valley Tuesday afternoon, which prompted the issuance of a Red Flag Warning ending 7 p.m. today. The central and southern portions of the valley were forecast to see the highest fire risk. As of mid-day today, temperatures and humidity remained below critical for the area.

Regionwide, high temperatures in the mid 70s to mid 80s were trending normal. Winds were variable with gusts from 8-15 mph observed, and higher gusts (to 25 mph) in southwest and south-central Oregon, along the Oregon Coast, in the Columbia Gorge, and in north-central Washington. Elevated fire weather conditions are present for southwest Oregon this afternoon. A weak surface thermal trough along the coast Wednesday morning drifts inland during the day and should reach the Cascades late Wednesday afternoon or early evening, with mid-level Haines 5 and local areas of Haines 6. Eastern Oregon may receive dry lightning as the trough passes. Regionwide, the energy release component (ERCs) will climb mid-week and then begin a cumulative decline beginning Friday, with the exception of east-central Washington and central-west and southwest Oregon.

As the SW Oregon Joint Information Center begins its glidepath towards a proposed Sept. 11 shutdown, new initial attack incidents have kept the JIC staff busy. Sunday night the JIC stayed open 24 hours during the Hugo Road Fire, which at one time had more than 500 homes in Level 2 and 3 evacuations. The JIC fielded more than 500 calls during the 24 hour period.

Helpful Links

- PNW Execs blog: pnwexecs.blogspot.com
- NWCC Blog: <http://nwccinfo.blogspot.com/>
- Oregon Smoke blog: <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>
- Washington Smoke blog: <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>
- 7-Day Fire Potential : <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/fwx/guidance/DL.pdf>
- Morning Brief: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/intelligence/MORNINGBRIEF.pdf>
- Helpful Wind Map: <https://www.windy.com/?44.143,-119.773,6,i:pressure>

Fire-related articles

"Oregon jobs with very long (and very short) work weeks." OregonLive.

- No. 4: First-line supervisors of fire fighting and prevention workers. Hours: 51.7.
- No. 7 Firefighters. Hours: 49.2
<https://www.oregonlive.com/expo/news/erry-2018/09/abe70de8591052/oregon-jobs-with-very-long-and.html>
- [Washington has underfunded efforts to control wildfire burning ...](#) Seattle Times.
- [Breathing wildfire smoke every summer could have long-term ...](#) Pamplin Media Group.



[Oregon firefighter dies after suffering 'irreversible' damage to organs ...](#)

Fox News -

[Oregon firefighter dies after returning from a fire.](#) Wildfire Today (blog)

Emerging Incidents

Initial attack was light today.

Washington:

None to report, however the Wrong Creek Fire on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF was showing some heat today.

Oregon:

Hugo Road Fire: This 199-acre fire was reported Sunday evening 10 miles north of Grants Pass near MP 66 on I-5. The Governor declared the conflagration act for the fire, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Red team responded, along with a local type 3 team. Several structures were threatened and two primary homes and 13 outbuildings were destroyed. Three additional homes and two outbuildings were damaged. An FMAG was approved yesterday.

LARGE INCIDENTS - WASHINGTON



Figure 1 Buttermilk Creek firing operations.

Crescent

Mountain/McLeod/Holman

Fires: NR IMT 1, IC Turman, is managing the 48,866 (2216+) acre Crescent Mountain fire, the 22,511-acre [McLeod Fire](#), and the 300-acre Holman Fire, which are burning on the Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. Both the McLeod and the Crescent Mountain fires are 35-percent contained. 106 homes are under Level 3 evacuations, 77 are in Level 2 and multiple others at the mouth of the Twisp River Valley remain in a Level 1.

- **Crescent Mountain:** The fire experienced 2,216 acres of growth yesterday. Crews completed handline in the Twisp Drainage and burnout from Buttermilk Road to the Twisp drainage. Firefighters

are going direct in the Mission Mountain area. A public meeting is planned for today at 6:30 p.m. in Twisp at the Methow Valley Community Center. Two transports occurred, one for a hip injury, and one bruised shoulder from the top breaking out of a tree and striking the firefighter.

Also, an air attack plane had an engine failure and had to return to the airport on one engine. More information is at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6093/>

- **McLeod Fire:** Crews are looking for opportunities to go direct in the Lost River Canyon. The fire has not seen much growth over the past few days.

Cougar Creek/Bannock Lake: (NW Team 10, IC Lawson) The Cougar Creek fire is at 42,134 acres and



Figure 2 International Efforts on the Cougar Creek

50% contained and Bannock Lake Fire is at 483 acres, and has been relatively quiet. Crews continue working in the northwest corner of the fire, prepping for a burnout operation. Helicopters did bucket work northwest of Granny Creek to slow fire spread in that area. While IR showed some heat in the Mad River area yesterday, it has stayed east of the river. Most of the rest of the fire is in patrol, mop up and suppression repair. Cooperator meetings will resume on Tuesday. One firefighter was treated for an infected hand wound. The IMT posted a nice tribute to the Australian and New Zealand firefighters who have been assigned to the fire. More information is at

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6053/>

LARGE INCIDENTS - OREGON

Klondike Fire: (SA Red, IC Deuitt). The fire is at 112,307 acres (+3,148) and 42 percent contained.

Yesterday, the team continued using retardant to check the fire spread. If the fire makes a push today, it could cross the management action point that would prompt recommending Level 3 evacuations. Strong northeast winds and five days of drying, caused the fire spotted across Indigo Creek and become established yesterday. Airtankers couldn't be used today due to smoke, but helicopters continued working the fire. Crews continued prepping for tactical firing operations south of Agness once conditions are right. A few Level 3 evacuations remain in place with Level 2 evacuation orders for the community of Agness. Five public information officers are staying in Agness to keep the community informed and to reduce risk of driving back and forth to Gold Beach. Locals have requested a full-time presence at Cougar Creek Lodge and an expanded trapline for information. PIOs have been emphasizing work done with gel plant. A community meeting will be held Wednesday at 1700 in Agness at the Community Library. The team did a tsunami evacuation plan in Gold Beach, while also getting information on a hurricane brewing in the Gulf Coast, which has potential to impact some of the team members home units. A closure remains for Bear Camp road. More information is at:

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5998/>.



Figure 3 Cooling the fire along FS Road 1986 on the Terwilliger Fire

Terwilliger Fire: NR Team, IC Connell is managing the 9,158-acre Terwilliger Fire with 27-percent containment. The fire is located on the Willamette National Forest near the Terwilliger (Cougar) Hot Springs and burning on both sides of Cougar Reservoir team. Fire crews made progress burning along the handline to tie into the FS 416 road. On the northeast, the fire burned down into the east fork of McKenzie River, which if it spots across, could lead to impacts to structures and Hwy 126. An off-shift water tender driver suffered serious injuries in a hit and run accident just outside of fire camp. He is in ICU in a hospital in Eugene. A forest closure remains in effect. Information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160/>

Natchez Fire: NW Team 7, IC Knerr assumed command of the Natchez Fire at 6 a.m. today. The fire grew another 966 acres yesterday to the west and is now 29,452 acres and 70 percent contained. The fire area continues to have a Haines Index of 5 and strong east winds. With the fire's movement to the west yesterday, the team is re-evaluating options on the west side. Thousand hour fuels are at 6% fuel moisture, and shrubs are now available to burn that were not burning two weeks ago. Evacuation levels remain the same, with 144 residents in a Level 1. NW Team 7, IC Knerr, will assume command at 6 a.m. Tuesday. The Klamath National Forest is extending the west side of the closure area to the Six Rivers NF. More information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5948/>